



Borough of Banbury

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1940

BANBURY :

The Banbury Guardian Printing Works

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To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Banbury.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health Services of the Borough during 1940.

In accordance with the requirements of Circular 2314 issued by the Ministry of Health on March 26th, 1941, and Circular 2067 of July 1940, the report is confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected public health during the year, especially outbreaks of infectious disease.

The incidence of several of the notifiable diseases has certainly been considerably higher than normal during the year and this has been particularly so with regard to Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles and Cerebro-spinal Fever. Diphtheria Immunisation was started in the Borough during the year.

The incidence of Scabies has also increased during the year and a special clinic has been started for the treatment of this disease.

There is no doubt that the fact that the Borough is a reception area for evacuees and the congestion resulting therefrom is largely responsible for the increased incidence of these diseases.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. CAMPBELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

29th October, 1941.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)—5,051.

Population (Census 1931)—13,953.

Estimated Population 1940—18,560.

Number of inhabited houses 1940—4,750.

Rateable Value—£108,424. Product of Penny Rate—£424.

Social Conditions of the Area.

The chief industries carried on in the Area are as follows :—

Aluminium Workers.

Distributive Trades.

Building.

Agriculture.

Employment maintained a good level during the year.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS 1940.

For calculation of						
Infant Mortality.				Birth Rate.		
M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
LIVE BIRTHS.						
LEGITIMATE	162	128	290	157	117	274
ILLEGITIMATE.....	8	5	13	8	5	13
TOTALS	170	133	303	165	122	287

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the Estimated Population—15.46

STILLBIRTHS				M	F	Total
LEGITIMATE ... ..	...	...	...	6	3	9
ILLEGITIMATE ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTALS ... ..	...	...	...	6	3	9

RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births—30.41.

DEATHS 1940.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	120	108	228

DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population—12.28.

LOCAL ADJUSTED DEATH RATE, 12.65 (Comparability Factor, 1.03).

Causes of Death during 1940.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	1	1	2
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	—	2
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System				1	5	6
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1	2
13.	Cancer of mouth and oesophagus (male) and uterus (female)	...		...	2	2	4
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum...				5	4	9
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	10	6	16
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	4	4
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...		...	5	13	18
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	25	24	49
20.	Other diseases of Circulatory System				9	4	13
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	14	11	25
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	9	3	12
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...		...	1	1	2
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...		...	1	—	1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	1	3	4
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	2	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	3	1	4
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	2	—	2
32.	Congenital malnutrition, injury etc.	...	...	birth	8	2	10
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	1	2
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	5	1	6
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	5	3	8
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	8	11	19
Totals					120	108	228

Thus the chief causes of death in order of frequency are :—

Heart Disease 49 Cancer 33 Bronchitis 25 Pneumonia 12

Causes of Death under One Year.

Premature Birth	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3
Acute Enteritis	...	...	...	3
Marasmus	...	...	...	2
Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	...	10
Total	...	...	...	20

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

	Number.	Rate.
All Infants per 1,000 live births	20	66.01
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	19	65.52
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1	76.92

Ages at which Death Occurred.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	13	7	20
1 and under 2 years	1	4	5
2 and under 5 years	1	1	2
5 and under 15 years	5	5	10
15 and under 25 years	2	5	7
25 and under 45 years	8	7	15
45 and under 65 years	24	22	46
65 and upwards including—			
	M	F	Total
65 and under 70 years	18	9	27
70 and under 75 years	16	14	30
75 and under 80 years	13	17	30
80 and under 85 years	15	12	27
85 and under 90 years	3	3	6
90 and upwards	1	2	3
Totals	120	108	228

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health	...	A. J. Campbell, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector and Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.	... ..	F. G. Cobbett, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector...		R. Upton, A.R.San.I.
Clerk	... ..	R. Thomas
Health Visitors	... ..	Miss Whiteway, Miss Arbon, Miss Irwin.
Clerk (Clinic)	... ..	Miss Clifton.
Disinfector	W. J. E. Haynes.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Number of Births notified	280
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The Child Welfare Clinic is held on Tuesday from 2.45 to 4 p.m. attended by the Health Visitors and assistance is given by voluntary workers in dispensing tea.

Number of children attending...	Borough	283
	Evacuees... ..	117
Number of attendances	... Borough	1947
	Evacuees... ..	356
Number under 1 year of age seen by Medical Officer...		37
Number of attendances	... ..	74
Number aged 1—5 years seen by Medical Officer	... ..	54
Number of attendances	... ..	79

Ante-Natal Clinic Report.

The following is Dr. Mary Fraser's Report :—

It gives me much pleasure to submit my report on the work of the clinic during the past year. The work of the clinic has greatly increased.

In 1940 there were 179 new cases and 423 old cases making total attendances of 602.

The number of attendances per patient works out at 3.9.

The average number of patients attending each clinic for the whole year is 12.5, but the average number per clinic since September is 17.7.

Of the 179 new cases seen for the first time this year—

83 are known to have had normal deliveries.

23 are known to be due.

53 are untraced, either having gone to a different home, or having gone to an infirmary, or special maternity home for evacuated women, or still remaining undelivered. This number appears unsatisfactorily large, but is accounted for by the state of flux of the population.

6 were delivered at the Radcliffe Infirmary, or Warwick Road.

2 were post-natal cases.

1 came to enquire if she were pregnant.

Among those cases whose condition was not normal, some have been delivered at home, and others have been sent away. These include :—

1 case cardiac disease and toxæmia.

3 breech cases.

2 cases forceps, doctors engaged.

2 cases twins (one unsuspected).

1 case heart disease and anaemia.

1 case persistent transverse lie repeated in third pregnancy.

1 case toxæmia.

1 case prematurity.

All cases showing any abnormality have been referred at once to their own doctors. Abnormal presentations have been corrected where possible, and advice given about diet and hygiene. Good advantage on the whole is being taken of the cheap milk supply, and mothers are encouraged to obtain it.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

The Clinic is held on Thursdays at 1 p.m. at the Horton General Hospital. The Surgeon, Mr. W. Foley, F.R.C.S. (Eng.) attends on the first Thursday of each month. Children under school age are seen as well as school children.

Number of children attending 5—14 years of age	...	20
Number of attendances	... ..	135
Number of children attending under 5 years of age	...	10
Number of attendances	... ..	16

Of these cases 17 were evacuees who made 87 attendances.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water is taken from the River Cherwell and during the year the supply was constant and sufficient. It is treated by sand and mechanical filters and as an additional safeguard is chlorinated.

During the year 1940, eight samples of water were taken for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination, and the reports of the Public Analyst shewed that the water was safe for use as a public supply.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the Year 1940.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to		Total Deaths
		Isolation Hospital	Other Hospitals	
Scarlet Fever	38	33	—	—
Diphtheria	28	26	—	6
Measles	596	37	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	4	—	—	—
Pneumonia	11	—	4	12
Erysipelas	4	1	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	—	3	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	5	—	5	2
Dysentery.....	6	3	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B.....	1	—	1	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	1	—
Totals	702	100	19	20

Scarlet Fever.

Thirty-eight cases occurred during the year of which 33 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and 5 isolated at home. Twenty-three cases occurred in children of school age; 7 in children under school age; and 8 in adults.

Diphtheria.

Of the 28 cases which occurred during the year, 26 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. There were 6 deaths.

Twenty cases occurred in children of school age ; 6 in adults ; and 2 in children under school age.

The outbreak started on April 8th and 11 cases occurred between that date and May 10th. With the assistance of Professor Wilson and Dr. A. G. Wells of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, all the school children in the Borough were examined and selected cases swabbed. No carriers were detected. Immunisation was offered to all the school children in the Borough and as a result a total of 1,915 school children and 121 pre-school children were immunised during the year.

All the elementary schools in the Borough were closed on account of diphtheria for two days prior to the Whitsun holiday.

In spite of the Immunisation Campaign the disease recurred again in the autumn. A case occurred in a young woman on August 16th, followed by a case in a child of 2 years on August 27th. No further cases occurred until November when an outbreak occurred at the Blue Bird Hostel for evacuees, Bridge Street. On November 2nd a case occurred which died before admission to hospital ; on the following day 5 cases occurred. Two further cases occurred on the 7th and 13th respectively. There were four deaths.

The Hostel contained 29 children and these were swabbed and three carriers of the intermediate type were found and isolated in hospital.

Owing to the difficulty in communicating with the parents of these children it is impossible to give combined active and passive immunisation which was urgently required. The present legal position is that children cannot be immunised against diphtheria without the consent of their parents even in the presence of an outbreak such as this. It seems unfair both to the children and their parents that it should be insisted on in the presence of an outbreak where immediate action is required. The majority of the children in the Hostel were subsequently immunised although after considerable delay. No further cases occurred at the Blue Bird Hostel.

Five further cases occurred in evacuees in the town and one in a local child. No cases occurred in immunised children and the recurrence of the disease in the autumn appeared to be mainly due to carriers among the evacuees.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Six cases occurred : all were treated at the Oxford City Isolation Hospital. Four were adult males while 2 were in children. All occurred between February and April. There were two deaths.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

One case occurred in a boy aged 16 who was removed to the Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital.

Paratyphoid Fever.

One case occurred in a patient who came from another area already suffering from the disease. She was treated at home.

Dysentery.

Five cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred, three of which were children who were patients at the Public Assistance Institution, Warwick Road, and two were in adult males.

Measles.

The number of cases of measles was 596, the highest incidence being among children from 5 to 10 years of age (285 cases). There were 29 cases in adults. Thirty-seven cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the majority being evacuees. There were very few cases with complications and no deaths.

Laboratory Work.

During the year arrangements were made for all laboratory work (with the exception of water examinations) to be carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford. Water examinations (chemical and bacteriological) are carried out by Messrs. Bostock Hill and Rigby, of Birmingham.

The following work was carried out during 1940 :—

		Positive for Diphtheria.	Positive for Haemolytic Streptococci.	Negative
NOSE AND THROAT SWABS :—				
From Hospital ...	...	30	2	100
From Practitioners ...	...	24	20	289

OTHER EXAMINATIONS INCLUDE :—

Sputa	3.....	Negative for Tubercle Bacilli.
Faeces	5.....	Two positive for Sonne Dysentery.
Widal	1.....	Positive for Paratyphoid B.
Pus	1.....	Negative for Gonococci.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED CASES.

Age over		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65
Disease— and under	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	
Scarlet Fever...	—	—	4	1	2	17	6	2	5	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	1	13	7	4	1	1	—	—
Measles	22	39	50	62	82	285	27	11	14	3	—	1
Whooping Cough	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	1	1	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ant. Poliomye- litis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	26	39	57	65	87	318	40	24	32	8	1	5

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table of New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
5 and under 15	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 and under 25	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 and under 35	4	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 and under 45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 and under 55	1	2	—	1	1	2	—	—
55 and under 65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and up	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	16	8	2	3	1	5	—	—

Scabies.

In October 1940, it was found necessary, owing to the prevalence of scabies in the Borough, to open a clinic for the treatment of the disease, and during the period until December 31st, 1940, 138 patients were treated, making a total of 1,671 attendances. The number of patients cured was 57, and 17 were transferred to the Hostel for Evacuees at Sinclair Avenue. Thirty-two patients were either re-billeted in this or in other reception areas; received treatment in their own homes or billets; or returned to London. The number receiving treatment at the end of the year was 32.

Infectious Diseases Hospital Report.

The Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital provides accommodation for 18 patients (including two small observation wards and a six-cubicle block). A full-time Matron resides on the premises and additional nurses and domestic staff are obtained as required.

The Hospital receives patients from the Borough and Banbury Rural District.

Particulars of the Borough cases admitted to the Hospital during the year are given in the following Table :—

Disease	Number of Patients				Total Days	Average Days
	At Jan. 1	Admitted	Discharged	At Dec. 31		
Scarlet Fever ...	—	33 (3)	25 (2)	8 (1)	1218	36.9
Diphtheria	—	26 (12)	23 (9)	3 (3)	841	32.3
Diphtheria Carriers	—	9 (5)	8 (4)	1 (1)	275	30.5
Erysipelas	—	1	1	—	9	9.0
Measles	—	37 (33)	34 (31)	3 (2)	894	24.1
Dysentery	—	3	3	—	24	8.0
Chickenpox ...	—	1 (1)	1 (1)	—	20	20.0
Tonsillitis	—	1 (1)	1 (1)	—	7	7.0
Eczema	—	1	1	—	12	12.0
Totals	—	112 (55)	97 (48)	15 (7)	3300	—

(The figures in parentheses show the number of evacuees included).

Six deaths from diphtheria occurred in the Hospital during the year, including two Borough cases and four evacuees. The deaths occurred during periods ranging from 5 to 13 days after admission.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year 1940

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—

My Report for the year 1940 has, as in the previous year, had to be curtailed in response to the provisions of Circular 2067 issued by the Ministry of Health, and I cannot therefore give a detailed account of the work carried out by my Department during the year, but must confine myself to individual matters which I think may be of immediate interest.

Complaints.

During the year 1940 174 complaints were received. These were investigated and dealt with.

Overcrowding.

The position as to the extent of overcrowding in the Borough cannot be accurately stated owing to the influx into the town of evacuees (both privately and under the Government Evacuation Scheme) and of workpeople employed in local industries, but this matter will have to be again reviewed after the cessation of hostilities.

Meat Inspection.

In mid-January, 1940, the Government assumed control of slaughtering of animals for human food, and for this purpose the Banbury Co-operative Industrial Society's slaughterhouse was requisitioned.

During the period from the 15th January, 1940, to the 31st December, 1940, the following carcasses, etc., were certified as unfit for human consumption—

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
Total number of animals slaughtered.....	2166	11809	479	555
Carcasses Condemned :—				
Tuberculosis	31	—	3	2
Other Causes	9	37	6	1
Parts of Carcasses Condemned :				
Livers	289	164	7	—
Heads and Tongues ...	12	—	—	2
Lungs	6	2	—	—
Forequarters	9	—	—	—
Meat (in lbs.)	585	64	23	—

Scabies.

Arrangements were made for opening a Seabies Clinic owing to the prevalence of the condition mainly among children, and for the treatment of the bedding, etc., by steam disinfection. Particulars of the number of patients availing themselves of the clinic facilities are given in the report of the Medical Officer.

Diseases of Animals Acts.

No cases of disease were notified under the Orders of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under the Diseases of Animals Acts.

Movement of Swine.

The number of store pigs consigned to the Cattle Market for sale during 1940 was 6,759. The number of licences issued was 737.

Irish Cattle.

Number of Irish Cattle licensed to the Cattle Market during 1940	...	...	...	...	...	1168
Number of licences received	...	...	...	...	...	42
Number of licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	53
Number of cattle licensed direct to Government Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	53
Number of Cattle licensed by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry direct to private premises	...	...	...	...	...	31

Transit of Animals—Cleansing Vehicles.

The number of cattle carrying vehicles cleansed and disinfected during 1940 was 4,047 ; an average weekly number of 79 (approximately)

General.

It will be noted that since the Ministry of Food took over control of fat cattle the number of animals exhibited for sale have greatly diminished with a corresponding decrease in the number of vehicles cleansed and disinfected.

F. G. COBBETT,
Senior Sanitary Inspector and Inspector
under the Diseases of Animals Acts.

